

X.—GROWTH AND SHEDDING OF ANTLERS OF SAMBUR AND SWAMP DEER IN ASSAM.

In No. 3 of vol. xxxvii, I saw a note about 'Growth and Shedding of Antlers in the Swamp Deer (*Rucervus duvaucelli*) in Manipur State'.

I saw Swamp Deer in Assam, along the border of Bhootan and along the foot of the hills, in spring, 1892 and also some of the poorly horned Sambur of that area.

On the 8th of March, I shot a sambur with horns fairly worn out by rubbing against the grass. The same day, I saw another one with horns hardly half grown and, of course, in velvet.

On March 14th, at a place called Raimana, a large Swamp Deer had horns half grown, in velvet, with the brow tine fully developed and the fork above showing the beginning of the other tines.

On March 18th, another Swamp Deer appeared to me to have tines almost fully grown except the top ones.

On March 21st, I shot a fine Swamp Deer, at a place called Kochugaon. His horns were still in velvet but fully grown, just the tips of the top tines were still a bit soft and rounded. By a strange piece of luck, from the back of my elephant, I saw a shed horn in perfect condition on the ground which the elephant picked up for me. It was only a few hundred yards from the place where I had shot the stag and, to all appearances, must have been one of the very same stag. I kept it, and was sorry that it was not on the stag at our meeting.

I consider that the beginning of the rains is probably the time when the Swamp Deer in Assam are in their prime. This would show a difference of season to that of Manipur, but this may vary from one place to another according to the locality.

MONTEVRAN, CHAUMONT-SUR-THARONNE.

LOIR-ET-CHER, FRANCE.

VISCOUNT ED. DE PONCINS.

January 10, 1935.

XI.—SOME LITTLE-KNOWN BIRDS OF NORTHERN BURMA.

I have already recorded in the *Ibis* of January 1935 the occurrence of the birds mentioned below in the Myitkyina District of Upper Burma. As the records are so few and far between, the following additional notes made in the District in 1934-35 are possibly worth recording.

Psittiparus g. gularis. Grey-headed Parrot-bill.

The only published Burma record is of one obtained by Capt. W. M. F. Gamble at Tutuga (Myitkyina District) in January 1933. A male was brought to me by an Atzi at Sadon on December 21st 1934, obtained at about 3,500 ft. with a pellet bow, in bamboo (iris red brown, bill orange-yellow, legs slaty-green).

Ciconia nigra. Black Stork.

This is probably an annual visitor to the upper reaches of the Irrawaddy, as I saw two large gatherings on sandbanks in November 1934, one being in exactly the same place as I observed them in November 1933.

Ardea imperialis. Great White-bellied Heron.

I again found this bird by no means uncommon between Sinbo and Myitkyina in November 1934. Individuals were seen at various places along the river and were not at all shy, feeding close to villages, and allowing a launch to approach quite near to them, before they took to flight.

Podiceps c. cristatus. Great Crested Grebe.

There are two previous recorded occurrences of this Grebe from the District but very few Burma records otherwise. On November 20th, 1934, I saw one on the river a few miles south of Myitkyina, and shot one of a pair on the Hokat jheel still further south. On November 21st I saw one swimming with a party of cormorants near Sinbo.

MYITKYINA,

UPPER BURMA.

December 21, 1934.

J. K. STANFORD,

Indian Civil Service.

XII.—MATING HABITS OF MYNAHS AND CROWS.

Between January and March, I had occasion to observe the pairing habits of certain birds. My attention was attracted by the extraordinary noise made by some Common Mynahs (*Acridotheres tristis*). To me, it seemed, that a pair of them were in a deadly combat. I watched them from a distance. A third one suddenly appeared on the scene but it remained an indifferent spectator. The interesting aspect of the combat was, that though the participants could have separated and taken to wing they continued the struggle. Each fiercely pecked at the other's beak, legs, wings or body. Finally the combat ended. The birds lay by each other with their vents apposed. This continued for about 15 seconds, then they parted and flew off.

It was then, I concluded that the strenuous combat may have been only a method of courtship or 'love play' and the apparent rest they took was actual copulation.

I was able to watch the behaviour of some mynahs two days later when two pairs were through a similar performance. They began their 'fight' on the branches and the house-tops and finally fell to the ground in the course of the combat. What I presume was that copulation took place during the 10-15 seconds of quiescence which followed. The whole performance was repeated at short intervals.

It is interesting to compare this habit of mynahs with the normal pairing habits of birds. The same method is apparently adopted by crows. Coitus is presumably effected side by side with



Ramsay's Bar-wing (*Actinodura ramsayi*). The Bird in the nest.



Nest and eggs of Ramsay's Bar-wing (*Actinodura ramsayi*).

the vents apposed, which, if my conclusion is correct is in contrast to the normal position of other birds such as sparrows, kites, etc.

It is interesting to note that the observations suggest two different ways of pairing in birds.

MEDICAL COLLEGE,
VIZAGAPATAM.

K. I. VARGHESE, M.A.

February 18, 1935.

[There is a general belief that crows copulate in the manner suggested by the writer of the note; colour is lent to this belief by the frequent combats which take place between crows during the period which immediately precedes their breeding season and also by the fact that copulation is rarely observed. However, on the rare occasions when it has been observed, the act was performed in the manner normal with birds. Mr. Salim Ali has made such observations and has seen crows pairing usually early in the morning. We do not therefore consider that we have any real evidence in support of the popular belief that there is a deviation from the normal in the mating habits of crows, nor do we consider that the writer of the above note is justified in his conclusion that the combats between mynahs are a preliminary to mating or that coitus takes place during the brief period of quiescence which follows a combat. Unless some pairs are actually shot in the act of scuffling and sexed and the passage of the male sperm ascertained by microscopic examination one could not accept the evidence offered by Mr. Varghese as conclusive. It is more than likely that the scuffles which take place among these birds are between rival pairs, both males and females sometimes join in the mêlée. Mr. Salim A. Ali in a recent letter to the Society mentions that he has seen several pairs of mynahs mating in the ordinary manner and that he hopes to collect further evidence on this point. We hope that Mr. Varghese will continue his observations regarding the mating habits of these common birds.—Eds.]

XIII.—NIDIFICATION OF THE SHAN STATES BAR-WING [*ACTINODURA RAMSAYI RAMSAYI* (WALDEN)].

(With a plate).

As the nidification of this bird remains still undescribed, I send you a note and photographs of a nest found by me two years ago.

It was on April 11, 1933, that I found the first nest of this Bar-wing, in the Southern Shan States, up in the hills at Sintaung, some twelve miles south of Taunggyi. The elevation above sea-level would be about 5,500 ft. That locality is particularly beautiful, wild rocky peaks rising to nearly 7,000 ft., with open down lands and ravines, patches of thick forest and green glades between. The local hill tribe are the Taung-yos, and they know a great deal about their birds. To them this Bar-wing is known as 'Nget pi pi'—presumably from its loud call note.

I was resting by a cave and waterfall, by the side of a rocky, scrub-covered hill, when I noticed a Bar-wing with building material in its bill fly up into a lot of creepers overhanging some rocks. But on searching the creeper carefully I could not see any signs of the building nest. The creeper was not a dense one, but somewhat dried-up, and yellow, with a good deal of feathery, 'silk' on it. I returned in five days' time, and to my delight, the birds were there. The nest I could now make out built very slenderly out on the edge of the creeper amongst the 'silk'. As the bird was still sitting on her nest when I got to within three yards of her, I was able to take a photograph of her sitting on the nest. Her tail is seen sticking out over the edge of the nest—long and straight.

There were two eggs—typical Bar-wings—but handsomer ones than those I had previously seen in the Chin Hills.

The nest, suspended in the half-dried-up creeper, hung out some ten feet from the ground over the rocks—a part of the same creeper ascending a thickly foliated tree near by. It was made of yellowish round roots and was lined with finer ones of the same character. The outer part of the nest had some of the creeper's feathery yellowish-white 'silk' worked into it, so that the nest was by no means easy to distinguish. Had I not known the exact spot I would surely have overlooked it.

The eggs measured approximately 23 mm. by 17.4 mm. They were of a delicate blue-green—the colour we associate with eggs of the English song thrush—but rather paler, and still more beautiful as the shells were of a delicate texture and being so thin gave the eggs a lovely transparency. The markings were few but bold in character—a few blotches and scrolls of purplish chocolate—some of the scrolls being drawn out into hair-lines. There were a few underlying blotches of lilac colour. The markings were mostly situated at the larger end of the eggs almost forming a zone.

Subsequently I saw many more of these Bar-wings' eggs, and they were all of the same type—but there are occasionally some that are weakly coloured, and such eggs approximate somewhat in appearance to a certain type of egg rarely laid by *Leioptila melanoleuca radcliffei*.

It has been said that the Bar-wings are very similar to the Sibias. Morphologically that may be so, but their appearance and habits are different, the Bar-wings being secretive birds, somewhat heavy in flight, and keeping to the lower growth, while the Sibias are elegant and conspicuous birds. But both have sweet and loud musical call notes—tender, pleading and somewhat mournful.

The call note—or is it the song-note?—of this Bar-wing is loud and plaintive and can be heard at a great distance. It consists of six notes falling in cadence—'Pi-pi pi-pi pi-yuuu' the last note being mournful, plaintive and prolonged. There is about two seconds' interval between each double note, and about one second's interval between each 'pi-pi'.

Recently I heard a bird calling in the thick, green jungles 60 miles north of Myitkyina which I took to be a Bar-wing. The

call was of the same character but consisted of 'Pi-yuu—pi-yuu—pi-yuu'—the intervals being somewhat longer—say four seconds, between each double note.

In future bird books let us hope some attempt will be made to describe with something approaching accuracy the colouration of birds' plumage and their eggs; and also their notes. The former should be described in terms of recognised artists' colours—which are the colours nearest to nature's—and a colour chart, as a guide, published on the front page. Birds do not wear chemically-coloured ladies' dresses! And as to the songs and notes of birds, a proper system is much to be desired. It should not neglect to give the approximate intervals between notes as such are very characteristic of the different species of birds.

TAUNGGYI, SOUTH SHAN STATES,

BURMA.

T. R. LIVESEY.

March 17, 1935.

XIV.—NIDIFICATION OF THE BLACK-HEADED BABBLER [*RHOPOCICHLA A. ATRICEPS* (OATES)].

With reference to Capt. Bates' letter on the nidification of the Black-headed Babbler (*Rhopocichla a. atriceps*), I am pretty sure that Davidson was right in stating that this bird builds 'cock' nests which are never intended for breeding purposes. Wherever the species occurs one finds dozens of these nests in the jungles at all times of the year. They are very loosely and untidily constructed, usually in full view and I have never seen one with any lining. Dead bamboo leaves are the favourite material and I found one beautiful specimen made entirely of skeleton leaves. Though I have disturbed birds roosting in this type of nest, all those which I have found containing eggs or young have been much smaller and more neatly and firmly woven. Unlike the 'cock' nests they are usually very well hidden and have a lining of black rootlets or grass. While, as Bates says, one may find half a dozen of the former type in as many yards of thicket, the breeding nests are usually quite isolated. The Ceylonese sub-species *nigri-frons* has precisely the same habits.

COOVERCOLLY,

SOMWARPET, COORG.

F. N. BETTS.

December 31, 1934.

XV.—ON THE OCCURRENCE OF THE TIBETAN SISKIN [*SPINUS THIBETANUS* (HUME)] IN NORTHERN BURMA.

In the *Ibis*¹ for April 1935 I recorded the occurrence of this rare finch in March 1933 near Sadon in the Myitkyina District at about 3,000 ft. Prior to this, it had only been known in India from the Tibet-Sikkim border, and in Burma from three obtained by Lord Cranbrook at 6,600 ft. in the Adung Valley (in the far

¹ *Ibis*, 13th Ser. Vol. V, p.265.

north of the Myitkyina District) in March 1931. On December 20, 1934, I obtained four out of a flock of about 20 birds in the valley of the N'Gri Hka about 6 miles west of Sadon, at a height of about 2,000 ft., one of which I was unable to preserve. They were all singing together with a typical Siskin note, in a tree after bathing in the stream. Two of those obtained, sexed as females, were heavily striped on the upper parts. (Iris, brown; bill, bone-grey; legs and feet, vivid brown.)

MYITKYINA,
UPPER BURMA.
December 21, 1934.

J. K. STANFORD,
Indian Civil Service.

XVI.—VULTURES FEEDING AT NIGHT.

On December 15, 1934, while Mr. and Mrs. P. Learoyd of Ootacamund were sitting up over a tiger kill at the foot of the Billigirirangans, vultures descended from the surrounding trees at about 8 p.m. and by 11 p.m. had completely demolished the remains of the kill. Although it was moonlight, I cannot recall a similar case having occurred before.

HONNAMETTI ESTATE,
ATTIKAN P.O., *via* MYSORE.
January 3, 1935.

R. C. MORRIS,
F.Z.S., F.R.G.S.

XVII.—PEREGRINE AND SPUR-WINGED PLOVER.

The delightful note by Mr. Stanford describing the drill-dance and manifestation of the Spur-winged Plover prompts me to tell of a most curious incident I witnessed in Burma a few years ago in which the Spur-winged Plover—the Japanese Print Bird—played an astonishing rôle.

I was slowly ascending the lovely Salween River in Karenni in a small boat, when my attention was attracted by a Spur-winged Plover in a very frenzy of agitation. He had come to the very end of a sand-spit just in front of my boat, and as I came to within about twenty yards of him, *he actually took to the water like a duck and swam out into the river.* He rode the water easily and lightly—with grace. I was dumbfounded at this exhibition! He then suddenly ducked *and dived clean under!* At the same moment there was a tearing sound and a fine Peregrine came at his stoop and skimmed over the ripples where the Plover had disappeared!

After about three or four seconds up bobbed the Plover again on the surface tittering with fear, while the Peregrine looking over his shoulder swung up and round to repeat his stoop. Then he came again at the Plover and as before just when he was within a few yards the wily Plover again dived! By this time my boat was nearly on top of the Plover who bobbed up, and then began to swim ashore. The Peregrine had flown off baffled completely by these tactics. The Plover landed safely and ran along the shore, still very rattled by his narrow escape from death.

And so I left him there bobbing up and down and shaking the wet off his plumage on a sandy-spit by the Salween.

TAUNGGYI, SOUTH SHAN STATES,

BURMA.

T. R. LIVESEY.

March 29, 1935.

XVIII.—DISTRIBUTION OF THE INDIAN HOOPOE
(*UPUPA EPOPS ORIENTALIS* STUART BAKER).

On page 308 of vol. iv of the *Fauna of British India* (2nd edition), as an instance of the wandering habits of Hoopoes, *Upupa eops orientalis* is quoted as breeding as high as Sukna in Darjeeling, some 7,000 ft. elevation.

As a resident of the Darjeeling District for many years, I write to say that Sukna is at the foot of the hills at 1,000 ft. elevation and is on the actual natural dividing line between hills and plains with sal forest on the north side and tea and rice fields on the south.

In fifteen years I have never seen any other Hoopoe but *U. e. saturata* in these Hills, which passes through in late August or early September returning in March and April, some birds dallying quite a while by the wayside. The earliest recorded downward date is August 17th and the latest upward date is May 17th when two birds hung about the tea garden for 3 weeks and then suddenly disappeared.

Round Siliguri, some 7 or 8 miles from the foot of the hills I have seen both *U. e. saturata* and *U. e. orientalis* together, in December, the latter being resident.

The reference to Sukna and Darjeeling on page 311 is ambiguous but the reference on page 308 shows that Sukna is assumed to be the same elevation as Darjeeling, thereby greatly enhancing the difficulty of dividing up the sub-species.

NAMRING T.E.,

RUNGLI RUNGLIOT P.O.,

W. H. MATTHEWS.

N. BENGAL.

March 8, 1935.

XIX.—THE LESSER FLORICAN [*SYMPHEOTIDES INDICA*
(MILLER)] IN THE KONKAN.

A female Lesser Florican was shot by Mr. J. Stokoe near Karjat at the foot of the Bhor Ghat on Sunday the 20th January 1935. As the Florican rarely enters the area lying between the Western Ghats and the sea, the record is of interest.

BOMBAY NAT. HIST. SOC.,

6, APOLLO STREET.

S. H. PRATER,

February 2, 1935.

C.M.Z.S.

XX.—SOME NOTES ON WOODCOCK (*SCOLOPAX R. RUSTICOLA* LINN.) IN BURMA.

The *Fauna* (2nd edition) states that in India the Woodcock is 'merely a casual migrant to the plains, the great majority of the Himalayan birds being resident or merely moving to lower levels in the winter'. Its breeding haunts are stated to be the Himalayas from 8,000-12,000 ft. and the 'mountains of Northern China'.

Mr. E. B. Bloech (*Journal*, vol. xxxiii, p. 715) has shown that the Woodcock is a regular winter visitor to the western edge of the Pegu Yoma in Lower Burma. It certainly occurs regularly in winter at about 3,000 ft. near Maymyo in the Shan States, which is only 26 miles away from one of the driest parts of the dry zone. Mr. E. W. Allan, of the Indian Forest Service, found it common at about 3,000 ft. in the Kyaugin township of Henzada District in the Henzada-Arakan Yoma. Capt. E. H. Cooke shot a migrant in the Fort at Mandalay, and I have recorded its occurrence in 1929 in the plains of Prome District. I also once saw a Woodcock, almost certainly a passing migrant, which had been disturbed out of a neighbouring garden, fly over the tennis-court of the Monywa Club on the Chindwin in October or November 1924. Col. R. M. Jacob tells me it is to be found regularly in various parts of the Chin Hills in winter, from 5,000 ft. upwards. These occurrences suggest that it is not a casual, but a regular, winter migrant over a very large part of Burma, to be found from late October to March whenever conditions are suitable. In the Myitkyina District of Northern Burma it certainly occurs, as a winter visitor, in some numbers over an area of 15,000-20,000 miles both in the plains and in the hills. On October 23, 1934, one flew over the Myitkyina Club at dusk, and I saw another fighting at dusk out of my garden in the same week. These were probably birds on migration. Capt. D. M. Fife tells me they occur at Laukhaung (3,000 ft.) in the N'Mai and Ngawchang Valleys and round the Panwa Pass on the Yunnan border (6,000 ft.) from December to mid-February. In January 1935, Messrs. A. S. Vernay, R. C. Morris and myself found a number fighting in every evening to wet ditches and paddy stubble on the edge of evergreen forest near Lonhkin in the Jade Mines. I saw at least three of these birds come high over the trees in the dusk, set their wings and stoop like a snipe or a falcon down to their feeding-grounds, though once they had started to feed they more or less fluttered up and gave very easy shots. In some of these ditches, the marks of their beaks and feet could be seen by day, and indicated where to wait for them. On January 1, 1935, I shot two feeding by day, on the Talawgyi plain, one in dew-covered short grass like wild barley; which at the time was full of feeding snipe, and the other on the edge of a jheel where it was feeding with Fantail and Painted Snipe about 9 a.m. In late February 1935, while we were beating for jungle fowl in scrub jungle opposite Myitkyina, as many as eight were flushed and six shot within a radius of about 300 yds. These birds were lying in dry scrub and bamboo jungle, and their feeding ground was pro-

bably the mud of a backwater of the Irrawaddy 200 yds. away. In early March, Capt. J. G. Hurrell saw as many as six in one jungle-fowl beat near Myitkyina. I have seen these birds flushed out of quite dry grass jungle by day, but one of their favourite haunts seems scrub or cane-brake jungle where shallow streams run out into the fields. Capt. Lyle tells me he has shot them at Sima (4,000 ft.) fighting to places where springs come out of the hillside. They rarely fly far in a beat and when first flushed, if not shot at, usually pitch again within 100 yds. It is to be hoped that before long the Woodcock will be found breeding in the hills of the North-East Frontier of Burma, on the Tibet or Yunnan border. There must be some breeding area in between the Himalayas and the North China hills which is yet to be discovered.

MYITKYINA.
April 14, 1935.

J. K. STANFORD,
Indian Civil Service.

XXI.—ALBINO FAN-TAIL SNIPE (*CAPELLA G.*
GALLINAGO LINN.).

I am sending you under separate cover a white snipe I shot about 20 miles from Bangalore on the 20th instant. I don't know how common such a specimen is but thought it might interest you.

I was shooting the border of a shallow tank where the snipe were fairly plentiful but wild. A couple got up together at extreme range and I fired the left barrel at the leading snipe but missed. I then noticed that the second one appeared completely white. I marked it down about 400 yds. further on and eventually shot it sitting as I didn't want it to escape again! It was very conspicuous, being visible from well over 100 yds. away where an ordinary snipe would have been unnoticed at 20. I apologise for the very bad skinning but I had to do it late at night.

Lt.-Col. J. V. J. Ellis, R.A., who has since gone home, told me about last November that he had seen a white snipe while shooting from Bangalore, but had failed to get a shot at it.

R. A. MESS,
BANGALORE.
January 23, 1935.

H. C. M. DUNN,
Lt., R.A.

XXII.—A SECOND RECORD OF THE OCCURRENCE OF
THE LONG-TAILED DUCK (*CLANGULA HYEMALIS*
LINN.) IN INDIA.
IN INDIA.

(With a photo).

I enclose herewith two photographs of a specimen of a drake Long-tailed Duck, *Clangula hyemalis*, which I shot on a wide sweep of the River Brahmaputra at Messaki, at the western end of the Pasighat Sub-Division of the Sadiya Frontier Tract, on Wednesday the 23rd of January, 1935. I tried to skin the bird,

but knowing very little of the business and how to preserve the skin, it went bad in the end. I kept one of the long tail 'pins' however which I also enclose herewith. The other 'pin' was somewhat shorter. I do not think there is any possibility of a mistake in identification for the black and white plumage with the black chest and white abdomen, the long 'pins' in the tail and the pink and black bill (a typical duck's bill) were to my mind unmistak-



The Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*)

able. The bird when first seen was swimming in the water quite close to the boat in which my wife and I were; but it seemed unable to fly. It gave a fine exhibition of diving before it was shot. I killed it thinking it was an injured smew. Later I discovered the apparent reason for its inability to fly, for it was gorged right up to the mouth with small freshwater shrimps. There were two other flocks of duck on the same water of which the males looked black and white and were apparently; the females looked dark brown, through a pair of field glasses. I was unable to get a shot at them for they were very wild. I cannot say therefore for certain if they were the same species as the one I shot, although the black and white birds in the flocks looked the same from the distance. These two flocks were on the same water on 16th February 1935 when I returned to Messaki on the homeward journey of my tour, but although I tried hard to secure another bird, I failed, for they were as wild as ever.

I cannot account for the bird I shot for its presence where I shot it seems very extraordinary indeed. It was very fat and seemed very heavy for its size. It was in splendid condition. Doubt will probably be cast on the record since I see that the duck has only been recorded once before in India and that from Baluchistan, but I think the accompanying photographs will set it at rest.

PASIGHAT, N.-E. FRONTIER,
ASSAM, INDIA.
April 1, 1935.

R. E. PARSONS,
Assistant Political Officer.

XXIII.—THE OCCURRENCE OF THE SCAUP (*NYROCA M. MARILA* LINN.) IN THE BHAVNAGAR STATE.

Many thanks for your kind information about the duck I sent to you, and which was identified as the Scaup (*Nyroca m. marila*).

I shot this duck in the last shoot of the season on the 22nd February last, at a place called Hathab, about 17 miles from Bhavnagar along the sea coast. The tank is about a mile from the village and consists purely of rain water. It is very badly situated for a shoot as the sea is about 150 yds. away, only a range of sand dunes dividing the tank from the sea. It has a small patch of reeds, but not thick enough to give any cover. All the ducks after being shot at for a very short time, make straight for the sea and very poor shooting is to be had. For this reason I arranged to have two Peregrine Falcons to 'wait on', so as to keep the ducks in the tank. As a result we shot 35 ducks out of about 100, with 3 guns. I think this is a very good bag considering the bad situation of the tank.

There were many other varieties of ducks, mostly Tufted Pochard (*Nyroca fuligula*) and Gadwall (*Chaulelasmus streperus*).

Another rare duck was shot by one of my friends. This small duck was flying very much slower than the others; its greyish-white colouring made it quite distinctive. It was eventually wounded and secured. I identified it as a female Marbled Teal (*Marmaronetta angustirostris*). It is still alive at our duck house. This species is a rare visitor here only. One male specimen was shot in 1931 at a village called Tarsamya just two miles from Bhavnagar.

NILAMBAG PALACE,

BHAVNAGAR.

K. S. DHARMA KUMARSINHJI.

March 10, 1935.

XXIV.—THE BRONZE-CAPPED TEAL [*EUNETTA FULCATA* (GEORGI)] IN THE SAMASTIPUR DISTRICT, BENGAL.

I have sent under registered post today the head of a duck for identification as no one on the shoot could identify the same, some of the Mallahs having been out shooting in this jheel with Planters for more than 50 years. Most unfortunately the young Mallah who picked it up 'hilal-karoed' it, before it was seen by us.

One of my old orderlies called it a Bengal Duck. Mr. E. Abbott of Hathwa who was shooting, has shot on this jheel for over 50 years and has never seen any bird like it.

On this same jheel, a Baikal Teal was shot about 4 years ago.

HURSINGPORE, SAMASTIPUR P.O.,

B. N. W. RY.

C. I. PARR.

February 4, 1935.

[The head sent by Mr. Parr was that of a Bronze-capped teal.
—Eds.]